



David M. Denehy

David M. Denehy is listed as the Director of [Office of Strategic and External Affairs](#) (DRL/SEA) in the [U.S. Department of State](#) Organizational Directory. [\[1\]](#)

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Office of the VP

"Another Iran war sign," Wayne Madsen [reported](#) August 16, 2006, comes from State Department sources who "report that the recent transfer of David Denehy from his job as Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy [Karen Hughes](#) to the [Office of the Vice President](#) is another sign that the [Bush administration](#) is gearing up to attack [Iran](#). Denehy also headed up the State Department's new Office of Iran Affairs, which was carved out of the Office of Arabian Peninsular Affairs for the sole purpose of creating the environment for a U.S. military attack on Iran. Denehy coordinated his activities with Farsi-speaking Iran Affairs Office personnel in Europe and [Dubai](#), Iranian expatriates in Europe and Washington, DC, as well as with U.S. and [Israeli](#) intelligence officers.

"Denehy, who once worked for the [International Republican Institute](#) (IRI) and is a committed [neo-con](#), was closely associated with the [Iraq invasion](#). Denehy's promotional climb at State was quick. He joined the department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research as an Iraq and Iran intern-analyst shortly after [George W. Bush](#)'s inauguration in 2001. In 2003, Denehy was promoted to be [Jerry Bremer](#)'s Deputy Director of Democracy and Governance in the [Coalition Provisional Authority](#). In 2004, he became Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and was again promoted to be Director of the Office of Strategic and External Affairs—a State Department version of the [Pentagon's Office of Special Plans](#). Denehy was a close associate of Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs [Elizabeth Cheney](#), the daughter of Vice President Cheney," Madsen wrote.

Office of Iranian Affairs

Denehy was "put in charge" of the Office of Iranian Affairs set up within the Department of State, Justin Raimondo [reported](#) in May 2006.

Background

In January 2001, Denehy was working at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), according to research [posted](#) in May 2006 by Patricia H. Kushlis on *WhirledView*. "It is my

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understanding that he joined INR as an analyst on the Middle East including [Iran](#) and [Iraq](#) where he was a presidential (management) intern after receiving an MA in International Affairs from Columbia," Kushlis wrote.

"In 2003, Denehy went to Iraq to work for Jerry Bremer as the deputy director of the CPA's Office of Democracy and Governance. He then returned to INR as an analyst on Middle East projects until December 2004 when he joined the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. He soon became an Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary. Denehy is now listed as Director of the Office of Strategic and External Affairs (whatever that means) in that same bureau with a 7th floor office but what looks like - on paper - a tiny staff," Kushlis wrote. "At some point as he moved up State's bureaucratic ladder, he also switched from being a career civil servant to a political appointee."

"Maybe, Kushlis wrote, "Denehy was 'a longtime democracy specialist at IRI,' but you couldn't prove it by Google except that at some point he apparently managed three democracy building projects in the former Soviet Union under a [USAID](#) contract."

On an Iraqi Free Press

"David Denehy, the deputy directory of the CPA's Office of Democracy and Governance shared his opinion in a December 2003 e-mail.

"While I certainly do not support media censorship, [Al-Arabia](#) and other gulf-based media outlets have for some time been fanning the flames of conflict,' he said.

"In his job as a political transition advisor to Bremer, Denehy has worked with focus groups of Iraqi professionals, most of whom watch [Al-Jazeera](#) and Al-Arabia, but not without skepticism.

"The problem is that there is nothing to compete with these powerhouses, so most [Iraqi's] with dishes or access to satellite TV watch these stations,' Denehy said." [2] [↗](#)

Related SourceWatch Resources

- [Coalition Information Center](#)
- [Combined Press Information Center](#)
- [information operations](#)
- [Information Operations Roadmap](#)
- [Information Operations Task Force](#)
- [information warfare](#)
- [Iraqi Media Engagement Team](#)
- [Office of Global Communications](#)
- [war in Iran / war in Iran: External Links](#)

External links

- [U.S. Department of State Organization Directory](#) [↗](#).
- Klissa Herbaly Coons, "[Iraq's long road to a democratic free press](#)," [↗](#) *Montana Journalism Review*, Summer 2004.
- Barbara Slavin, "[U.S. doesn't have needed support in U.N. to punish Iran, official says](#)," [↗](#) *USA TODAY*, May 19, 2005.
- "[Jubilee Campaign Highlights Street Children During Events in Washington, DC](#)," [↗](#) JubileeCampaign.org, September 22, 2005: Scroll down to "Congressional Hearing—Tuesday, September 13" and Denehy's "full statement".
- Guy Dinmore, "[New US focus on promoting democracy in Iran](#)," [↗](#) *Financial Times* (InformationClearinghouse.info), March 2, 2006.

- Laura Rozen, "U.S. Moves to Weaken Iran. A campaign to promote democracy and fund dissidents prompts speculation that the administration's goal is to change the regime," [☞](#) Special to the *Los Angeles Times* (InformationClearinghouse.info), May 19, 2006.
- Patricia H. Kushlis, "The US and Iran: What's next? Regime change or nuclear containment?" [☞ WhirledView](#), May 23, 2006.
- Justin Raimondo, "Scary Reunion," [☞ antiwar.com](#) Blog, May 26, 2006.
- Wayne Madsen *Wayne Madsen Report* [☞](#), August 16, 2006.

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